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RURAL DISTRICT OF WARWICK.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT,

FOR THE YEAR 1925,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington :

A. TOMES, 46, BEDFORD STREET.

1926.



14, YORK ROAD,

LEAMINGTON SPA,

July, 1926.

To the Warwick Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you the Report for the year 1925, relating to the health of the District.

Incorporated in the Report, as required by the Ministry of Health, is a survey of conditions during the past five years. As a record, even if an imperfect one, of health conditions in the District, it may be of some interest.

I would wish to express my thanks to the Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, and also to my colleagues for their ready help at all times.


The preparation of the present Report has entailed special work on the part of Mr. Smith, which I acknowledge with many thanks.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,

Medical Officer of Health.



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Warwick Rural District.

I. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (Acres)	53,957
„ „ Water	415
Population (1925)	{ For Birth Rate...		13,040
	{ For Death Rate		....	....	....	....	12,840
„ (Census, 1921)	....	....	....	....	....	....	12,700
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	....	....	....	....	....	....	2,754
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	....	....	....	....	....	....	2,787
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	....	....	£145,314
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	....	....	....	....	£427

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

			Total.	M.	F.		
Births	{ Legitimate	190	100	90	} Birth Rate	15.0	
	{ Illegitimate	5	2	3			
Deaths	... ..	123	62	61	Death Rate	9.6	
Factor for the Correction of Death Rate for Age and Sex							
Distribution	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	.834
Corrected Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.0
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth :—							
	From Sepsis	....	....	....	....	....	0
	„ other causes	....	....	....	....	....	2
Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—							
Legitimate, 35 ; Illegitimate, 666 ; total, 46.							
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	....	....	....	....	....	....	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	....	....	....	....	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	....	....	....	....	....	....	0

Comparative figures for past years will be found in Table II.

Population.—The Registrar again furnishes two estimates of population for the District, one for the estimation of the Birth-Rate (13,040), and another for estimation of the Death-Rate (12,840). In so doing he is presumably allowing for the population of Budbrooke Barracks. In 1924 the figures were 13,040 and 12,840, the increase is 100 in each case.

The “natural increase,” *i.e.*, the excess of births over deaths, for 1925 was 72.

Birth-Rate.—There were 195 births, which gives a birth-rate of 15.0 per 1,000. The respective figures for 1924 were 200 and 15.4.

Death-Rate.—There were 123 deaths, giving a death-rate of 9.6 per 1,000. The figures for 1924 were 149 and 11.7.

The causes of death are detailed in Table IV., but the most important were Tuberculosis 12, Cancer 16, Apoplexy 8, Heart Disease 15, Bronchitis 8, and Violence 9.

The figures shewing the number of deaths from Cancer during the past few years are as follows :—

1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
11	9	6	8	13	13	13
1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
14	15	11	17	10	15	16

Infantile Mortality.—9 deaths, giving a rate of 46 per 1,000 births. 5 of the deaths were due to conditions prior to birth.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.—The general character of the water supplies have been described in previous Annual Reports, and there has been practically no change for many years past.

No extension of mains into the District has been made during the year.

85 certificates of occupation under the Public Health (Water) Act have been granted during the year.

98 samples of water have been taken for analysis ; further particulars are given in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The only new sewerage works commenced during the year were those referred to in the Report for 1924 in respect to the Tile Hill District of the Stoneleigh Parish. A scheme for dealing with the Sewage problem in this district had been in the minds of the Council for some time, and Mr. S. C. Eagles, of Birmingham, was instructed to report to the Council, and following this report to prepare a scheme for presentation to the Ministry of Health. A Public Enquiry was held in January, 1925, with reference to the application to borrow the sum of £24,546 for Sewage disposal works. A contract was entered into with Messrs. G. Law, Ltd., Kidderminster, to carry out the scheme for the sum of £22,105 5s. 8d. The work was commenced in April, 1925, and it is hoped to be completed in July, 1926, at a total

cost of £26,905 5s. 3d. Actual house connections will not be made until the maintenance period provided for in the contract has expired.

I am indebted to Mr. G. F. Taylor, Surveyor to the Council, for the following particulars :—

Drainage Area.—The area dealt with by this scheme is about 4,000 acres, and includes Tile Hill, Whoberley, Canley and Green Lane Districts, and an extension of the scheme can be made to include Westwood Heath.

The main outfall, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, part of which is 15in. stoneware pipe, runs from Tile Hill Lane through meadow lands to Canley Gardens, thence along the valley line south to the outfall works near Tocil Farm, which is south of Canley.

Two main subsidiary sewers of 9in. stoneware pipe run into the main outfall sewer, one through Beech Wood Gardens under the railway embankment into Canley Lane, opposite the Standard Motor Works, and branch sewers from Tile Hill Lane and Broad Lane ; the other reaches the main sewer near Fletchampstead and is laid through meadows into the hollow in Tile Hill Lane at Lime Tree Park Estate. Further branch sewers are laid by Canley Lane to the Coventry Green Lane Estate on the Kenilworth Road and along Banner Lane to Station Road, Tile Hill.

Subsidiary Outfall Works.—These consist of screening chambers, storm water tanks, and sedimentation tanks, three with a total capacity of 50,500 gallons. The sewage passes to three bacteria filter beds 55ft. in diameter and 5ft. in depth. The purified effluent from these beds passes into humus tanks before discharge into the brook. Provision for sludging the tanks is made by a small pumping station. These works are estimated to deal with sewage from a population of 5,000, but there is ample room and facilities for any enlargement if necessary.

Closet Accommodation.—There is not much change to report, as would be expected in a Rural District. Approximately, the number of Water Closets is 593, Pails 1,545, and Privies 746.

Scavenging.—The public scavenging at Cubbington, Barford, Whitnash, and Tile Hill has been on the whole satisfactorily carried out.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.—The Sanitary Inspector's Report gives a summary of his inspections, and in his report will be found full details.

SCHOOLS.—Elementary Schools of the District have received inspection as occasion arose, but there are no structural improvements to record during the year.

FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—Generally speaking I am of opinion that the Milk Supply of the District is good, but this is inferred, because the actual sampling of the supply is carried out by the officials of the County Council, and I am unaware of the results of such sampling. I am led to understand that the question of the cleanliness of the supply is always under consideration by the producers, and that the Farmers' Union is taking special interest in this matter, and is giving advice and lectures to those amongst its members who are interested.

There were 4 additions to the Register during the past year, making a total of 119 now registered as cowkeepers and wholesale purveyors of milk, and 2 retailers making a total of 26 now registered.

There were no refusals to register, and no registrations have been revoked.

No licenses have been granted for the sale of milk under special designations.

(b) *Meat*.—It will be realised that the inspection of all meat at the time of slaughter is difficult in any area, but it must be specially difficult in a Rural Area of such considerable size as the Warwick Rural District, in fact unless the Council had an Inspector specially for the purpose, it would be impossible to carry out the letter of the Meat Regulations, 1925. The best the Inspector can do now is to visit as many slaughterhouses as possible and inspect. The difficulty is increased greatly by the prevailing habit of the butcher of not having a fixed hour for slaughtering, so that notices are received at all hours, and it is impossible to arrange the work in any methodical way.

Condemned meat is either destroyed at the Leamington Destructor or buried under the supervision of the Inspector.

Shops and vehicles are inspected by the Inspector at the time the slaughterhouses are visited.

Since the Meat Regulations, 1925, came into force on April 1st, 1925, the following inspections have been made :—
183 beasts, 24 calves, 674 sheep, and 233 pigs.

Slaughterhouses in Use.

	1920.	Jan., 1925.	Dec., 1925.
Registered ...	7	4	4
Licensed ...	1	1	3

3. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1921.

	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Fever.
1921 ...	3	13	2	13	—	2
1922 ...	9	45	—	24	—	—
1923 ...	5	17	24	8	—	—
1924 ...	8	10	2	16	2	1
1925 ...	6	28	2	14	1	—

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1925.

Smallpox.—The Mental Diseases Hospital at Hatton was the scene of a considerable epidemic of Smallpox during the last few months of 1924 and the first 2 months of 1925. The following Report was presented to the Council in April, and gives a full account :—

14, YORK ROAD,
LEAMINGTON SPA,
April 9th, 1925.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Warwick Rural District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

REPORT ON OUTBREAK OF SMALLPOX,
HATTON ASYLUM, February, 1925.

On February 2nd I received information from the County Medical Officer of Health to the effect that he had been asked to see certain cases at the County Mental Institution, Hatton, and suggesting that I should accompany him.

Dr. W. L. Goldie, who was acting for me during illness, went with the County Medical Officer, and later in the day he

reported to me that he was of the opinion that the cases were undoubtedly Smallpox, though somewhat of a mild character.

A telegram was at once sent to the Ministry of Health, followed by a confirmatory letter, and on February 3rd the district was visited by Dr. Vernon Shaw, of the Ministry of Health, who, in company with Dr. Goldie, made a complete investigation of the cases, and was of the opinion that they were cases of Smallpox.

The position at the time was as follows : There had been a series of cases, commencing at the beginning of July, 1924, regarded as Chickenpox, and treated as such, such cases continued to crop up as follows : July 15, August 24, September 5, October 6, November 5, December 5, January 14, February 7, in all a total of 81. The original source of the infection was stated to have been through a visitor from Wood End, Fillongley, a village near Nuneaton, but further inquiry failed to substantiate this.

The difficulty of dealing with the situation was considerable, because the staff and attendants of the Institution had seen so many of these mild cases of Smallpox, regarded them as Chickenpox and of course treated them as of small account. They were therefore inclined to continue in the same way, and to resent any interference with their normal activities. Furthermore, quite a large number of the staff live outside the Institution, and the dependants and neighbours had to be considered.

Isolation of Cases.

It was, of course, impossible to remove the patients from the Institution, so they were isolated as well as possible in one building, which was well separated from the rest, and the immediate contacts were treated likewise. Arrangements were made for washing to be disinfected before leaving this building, and for the attendants to take precautions regarding their own clothing.

Vaccination.

At first, by his own wish, the Medical Superintendent made his own arrangements for the supply of vaccine, but it was found that enough could not be obtained, so on February 4th, I telegraphed to the Government Lymph Establishment for five hundred tubes of vaccine, which were supplied by return of post, and vaccination proceeded. In all the Medical Superintendent states the 782 vaccinations were performed with Government Lymph, and of these 571 were successful ;

there are, however, two possible fallacies in connection with this, firstly that one is dealing with a class of person who is irresponsible as regards after treatment of the inoculated arm, and secondly I think it is only fair to say that Dr. Shaw at the time of his second visit was definitely of the opinion that some of the cases marked successful vaccination, were very doubtful, as foveation was absent.

Lists of attendants, etc., living outside were furnished, and they were passed on to the appropriate Public Vaccinator for the district, who in all cases visited and offered vaccination to the families of the staff. Here again there was difficulty because many refused to recognise that Smallpox existed, owing to the comparative mildness of most of the cases, and the duration of the epidemic.

The Clerk to the Guardians was informed of the existence of the epidemic ; he is also the Clerk to the Rural District Council.

The Medical Officers of Health of neighbouring districts were informed.

Visiting of Patients.

Visiting of patients was stopped until all danger of infection was past, actually till the third week in March.

Limitation of Movements of Staff.

It was realised at once that it would be impossible to make the Institution a closed camp, but it was also thought that it would be unwise to allow the staff who lived in the Institution to stay away at night, so late leave was stopped, and attendance on the actual cases of the disease was confined to the staff living inside.

It was felt that some attempt should be made to limit the movements of the staff when off duty, and a letter was written to the Medical Superintendent, suitable for posting in the building, with a view to putting the serious nature of the position before the staff, and suggesting that the visitation of friends' houses and places of public entertainment was inadvisable, for the time being. I have no definite knowledge of the success or otherwise of this procedure, which was in its inception suggested by the Commissioner of the Board of Control, who was visiting at the Asylum when I called.

Dr. Vernon Shaw, of the Ministry of Health, again visited on February 24th, and appeared satisfied with the precautions that were being taken. As no further cases have occurred the

restriction against patients' visitors was relaxed in the third week in March, and final disinfection of the premises was carried out on April 3rd, 1925.

Conclusions.

1. The disease was prevalent in July, 1924, and continued throughout the year. Owing to the fact that its nature was not recognised, it did not come to the knowledge of this Authority till February, 1925.

2. The cases would appear to have been of low infectivity.

3. The control of contacts presented somewhat peculiar difficulties.

4. In all there were 81 cases, though there would appear to be some doubt as to the nature of some of them.

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,
Medical Officer of Health.

The remainder of the District remained free from Smallpox in spite of the fact that there were cases in Nuneaton and Coventry. This was the more satisfactory as many of the dwellers in the Rural District work in Coventry. Naturally the occurrence of cases in such close proximity was a source of considerable anxiety, and it may be noted here that the general neglect of vaccination cannot but add considerably to the risk of the spread of infection. It is difficult to understand why such a comparatively easy and painless method of gaining immunity is so much neglected.

The Warwick Joint Hospital Board's Smallpox Hospital on the Fosse was kept in constant readiness for the immediate admission of patients.

Public Health (Smallpox) Regulations, 1917.—The special provisions of these Regulations were not used.

Diphtheria.—6 cases were notified. Four cases were removed to Hospital. There were 3 deaths, two of which occurred in children from Radford, and were undoubtedly due to late recognition of the serious nature of the cases by the parents. The third case was a transferable death from the Borough of Warwick.

Of the six cases, 2 occurred at Radford, 2 in Stoneleigh, Parish, and one each at Hatton and Ashow.

In 1924 there were 8 cases ; 4 occurred in the School at Weston, and in 1922, when there were 9 cases, 6 of these occurred at Barford.

As far as I am aware the SCHICK TEST has not been used in the District, nor any method of artificial immunisation.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the Council for poorer cases, and can be obtained free of charge by doctors from Hutton, Chemist, The Parade, Leamington, and Wooddisse, Chemist, High Street, Kenilworth.

Scarlet Fever.—28 cases were notified during the year. Of these, 12 occurred in the village of Tachbrook, and were undoubtedly due to direct infection from one another. 24 cases were removed to Hospital. There were no deaths. In 1922 there was the large number of 45 cases, there being an epidemic of 28 cases in Cubbington.

I have no record of the DICK TEST having been used, nor of any means of artificial immunisation.

Enteric Fever.—2 cases were notified in 1925, both being of the Para B. type ; there were no deaths.

In 1923 there was a considerable epidemic of Paratyphoid B. Fever in this District, and those immediately around it. This was fully described in a Report included in the Annual Report for 1923.

Pneumonia.—14 cases were notified. There is little doubt that all cases which occur are not notified, but unless they appear in the death returns it is impossible to be aware of the occurrence. In any un-notified case which comes to our notice, the Doctor concerned is immediately reminded of his neglect to notify.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—One case was notified, and was fatal.

Puerperal Fever.—No cases notified.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—One case was notified, and particulars sent at once to the County Medical Officer with a view to any necessary action.

Laboratory Work.—See Section 6.

The following is a list of Elementary Schools closed during the year on account of infectious disease. This list indicates fairly accurately the incidence of non-notifiable infectious disease :—

Cubbington Infants, from 26th Jan. to 16th Feb. Whooping Cough.

Budbrooke Council, from 2nd Feb. to 16th Feb. Influenza.

Wroxall, from 2nd Feb. to 13th Feb. Mumps.

Stoneleigh, from 23rd Feb. to 16th Mar. Mumps.

Offchurch, from 1st Mar. to 8th Mar. Influenza.

Radford, from 2nd Mar. to 9th Mar. Influenza.

Cubbington Infants, from 14th Mar. to 27th Mar. Mumps.

Cubbington Council, from 14th Mar. to 20th Mar. Mumps.

Hatton, from 23rd Mar. to Easter Holidays. Influenza.

Whitnash, from 31st Mar. to Easter Holidays. Influenza.

There were no deaths from Measles, and 4 from Influenza.

The school teachers of the District generally follow the rules laid down by the County Council with regard to exclusion of members of infected families from School, which rules are based upon the Ministry of Health's Memorandum for 1925. Notifications of all cases of infectious disease occurring amongst school children are duly forwarded to me from the Schools.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE—PERIODS	NEW CASES.						DEATHS.					
	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.		
	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...
0	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
1	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
5	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	1	—	...
10	—	—	...	2	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
15	1	1	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	...
20	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
25	1	4	...	—	—	...	4	1	...	—	—	...
35	2	2	...	1	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	...
45	2	—	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	...
55	—	—	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	1	1	...
65 and upwards	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...
TOTALS	7	7	...	4	—	...	8	1	...	2	1	...

During the year 18 new cases of tuberculosis have been notified 14 of which were of Pulmonary and 4 of other forms of tuberculosis. The following shows in a tabular form the new cases and deaths since 1912 :—

	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
New cases	13	29	15	13	13	15	23
Deaths	22	35	33	14	14	6	14
	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
New cases	24	13	22	14	18	24	18
Deaths	10	10	13	12	12	14	12

9 deaths of persons belonging to the District were due to pulmonary tuberculosis, and 3 to other tuberculous disease

Sanatorium.—During the year 10 patients were admitted to the Sanatorium, and 10 were discharged.

By an arrangement with the County Medical Officer of Health I have supplied him every week with lists of new cases of tuberculosis notified, and the County Health Visitor has visited and given advice where such appeared necessary.

Disinfectants and sputum bottles are supplied free through the Sanitary Inspector for cases where desirable. After deaths from tuberculosis and after removals of tuberculous patients, when the circumstances require it, disinfection is carried out by the Inspector, and the bedding removed to the Warwick Workhouse for steam disinfection.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Under the Notification of Births Act 168 births were notified out of 195 registered, and as the Authority for the Maternity and Child Welfare Act in the District is the County Council, the list of births was sent on weekly.

A large number of letters have been written to parents who neglected to notify births, and it is hoped that this will have the necessary effect.

As shewn on page 3, the Infant Mortality, viz., 46 per 1,000, is lower than that for England and Wales, though higher than that of this District in 1924. It is obvious that the Child Welfare work carried out by the County Council has much to do with the decreased mortality in infants.

4. CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

There is nothing special to report.

5. SUMMARY (FOR REFERENCE) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—None provided by the Council.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority.—(1) Tuberculosis, None (County Council). (2) Maternity, None (County Council). (3) Children, None. (4) Fever, The Council is a constituent part of the Warwick Joint Hospital Board. Heathcote Hospital and Fosse Smallpox Hospital.

6. LABORATORY WORK.

The following Table shows the bacteriological examinations carried out by the Birmingham University :—

	Positive.		Negative.		Total.
Diphtheria ...	2	...	21	...	23
Enteric Fever...	1	...	3	...	4
Tuberculosis ...	2	...	6	...	8
	—		—		—
	5	...	30	...	35

7. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

A summary of the work of the Sanitary Department is given in Table 1.

Adoptive Acts.

Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1907, Part IV.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

Tents, Vans, and Sheds Bye laws.

Public Health Act Amendment Act, Sect. 27.

Public Health Act, 1875, and Private Street Works Act, 1892 (Parish of Stoneleigh).

Public Health Act, 1925, Parts II. and III.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Sanitary Inspector is responsible for all of the routine sanitary work of the District in his various capacities. He acts as Building Surveyor, and is the official designated for the purpose of the Housing (Inspection of Districts) Regulations ; he also administers the Canal Boats Acts and the Petroleum Acts, and superintends the Scavenging.

9. HOUSING.

I. *General Housing Conditions.*—(1) The greater portion of this District is purely rural in character, but it adjoins so many towns that it is bound to be affected very considerably by the housing problems which face them. In the case of Coventry for instance, the trade of the City has grown enormously in accordance with the growth of the Motor industry, but the provision of houses for the resultant population has not kept pace, and Coventry is, I understand, faced with a housing problem of considerable magnitude. The result has been that the Warwick Rural District, together with the other districts round about, has a large population who work in Coventry. The Census of 1921 shewed that of the total population of the District, viz., 12,700, 519 persons worked in Coventry, 372 in Leamington, 171 in Warwick, and 128 in

Birmingham. As regards the first figure there is little doubt that the large number of houses built in the Stoneleigh Parish will have increased this number considerably, and this number will continue to increase as the various building estates in this Parish are developed. On the other hand there were 636 persons living in Coventry but working in the Rural District. These figures would appear to indicate that as regards Coventry the Rural District had, at that time, the best of the bargain in housing, but there is little doubt that the figures to-day would shew a very different result. In all in 1921 the balance showed that there were 444 persons living in the District whose work was elsewhere.

(2) It is impossible to assess the actual shortage of houses. It has been said that the houses which have been built in the Tile Hill area must have diminished the demand considerably, but there are two factors which must be taken into account, firstly that these houses are not built for letting purposes, and houses to let are the great need at present, and secondly they are purchased for the most part by people from Coventry, so that does not help the shortage in the Rural District.

As the result of the Housing Survey of 1919 it was found that there were 61 houses which should be closed, and in consequence of that survey the Council adopted a scheme for the building of 66 new houses as being the immediate need of the District ; this scheme was sent up to the Ministry. It can be said with certainty that the demand for houses has not decreased since that date, in fact there is every reason to think that it has increased.

Since 1919, the total number of houses erected in the District is 274, 30 of which were put up by the Council. The Council houses were erected as follows :—Cublington 12, Radford 6, Shrewley 6, and Tachbrook 6. Of this total it is safe to say that only the Council houses were built for letting, and therefore are the only ones which fall within the category of those which the Council scheme was to provide. On the figures given in 1919, therefore, there is a net shortage of 36 houses, but it is common knowledge that this does not represent the actual conditions. Under these circumstances it is obvious that nothing can be done in the way of closing houses until such time as there is further accommodation available.

II. *Overcrowding*.—No actual figures can be given as to the extent of overcrowding, for it has to be realised that in these days of high prices a householder often finds that taking

in lodgers will help considerably in paying rent, etc. Such cases are numerous in the villages nearest to Coventry; furthermore many of the houses are of the two bedroom type, so that apart from lodgers the ordinary needs of the family are not met by the accommodation available. It is natural that such arrangements shall not come to the ears of the Inspector, whose action might dry up a source of income, and even if they did it is impossible in most cases at present to alleviate the conditions. Four marked cases of overcrowding came to our notice during the past year: Bubbenhall I, Stoneleigh 2, Radford 1. These cases were alleviated by the removal of the extra occupants to another district, where no doubt they accentuated the overcrowding of that particular district.

III. *Fitness of Houses*.—The Survey of 1919 shewed that there were 61 houses which should be closed, and a further 178 which were seriously defective. Practically nothing has been possible in the way of closure, so that the 61 houses or thereabouts still remain, and it is certain that a further number have passed from the repairable to the irreparable stage, and would have to be considered accordingly.

Generally speaking the conditions during the past five years have been very difficult. It has only been by means of constant pressure that improvements have been secured. One is now able to see that housing has improved, but there is certainly much to be done in the villages of Cubbington and Whitnash, and it is to be hoped that if houses are provided, the necessities of these areas will be taken into consideration.

With respect to the responsibility for housing defects as between owner and tenant, there is little doubt that in the majority of cases the defects are structural, and due to default of the landlord, but of course there are instances where the carelessness and dirtiness of the tenant are the main factors.

Action taken for the improvement of housing conditions is set out in the following Table, and also in Table I.

Bye-Laws.—These were examined, and it was concluded that no advantage would arise from their revision.

Town Planning.—A scheme is being prepared for the area abutting on Coventry.

The following tables give particulars of houses inspected. This matter is further referred to in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING CONDITIONS. STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1925.

1.—NEW HOUSES.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	....	....	....	....	....	....	115
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923 or 1924 :							
(i.) By the Local Authority	...	...					—
(ii.) By other Bodies or Persons	...	...					69

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I.—INSPECTION.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	649
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	... ..	297
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	28
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	162

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	522
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III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. *Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	273
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after formal notice—		
(a) by owners...	... ..	241
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners		—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	—

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	13
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—		
(a) by owners	... ..	13
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners		—

C. *Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made... ..	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND BUILDING SURVEYOR.

TO THE WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Twenty-Third Annual Report, showing the work carried out during the past year for the abatement of nuisances and prevention of Infectious Disease.

The total number of Nuisances dealt with amount to 1,215. Particulars are given in Table I.

OVERCROWDING.

BUBBENHALL.—4 adults and 4 children sleeping in two small bedrooms. (Two adults left to marry).

STONELEIGH.—4 adults and 5 children sleeping in two small bedrooms. (Two lodgers, adults, and one child left district).

STONELEIGH.—4 adults and 7 children sleeping in two bedrooms. (Two adults and three children lodgers gone into Coventry).

RADFORD.—5 adults and 3 children in two small bedrooms. (Two adults moved into Leamington).

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATION.

78 cases of Acute Infectious Disease were notified. 27 patients were removed to hospital, 8 cases were treated at home, the remaining 6 cases were treated at the Hospital at Mental Asylum, Hatton, and were suffering from Smallpox.

In each instance the rooms were fumigated, and bedding removed for steam disinfection.

Several wards were sprayed with formalin, and the whole of one basement block was disinfected at the Mental Hospital after the last patient had recovered.

A limited outbreak of Scarlet Fever was experienced at Tachbrook, and the schools were closed for that reason.

They were sprayed with formalin and disinfected before being re-opened.

20 deaths from Cancer or Phthisis, or removals of patients suffering from the latter disease, were notified. In each case the rooms were fumigated, and bedding either destroyed or removed for steam disinfection. In five cases bedding has been voluntarily destroyed by the owners.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ANIMALS ACT.

The Dairies and Cowsheds throughout the district have been kept in fair order.

20 Notices to cleanse and limewhiten have been given.

WATER SUPPLY.

98 samples of water have been submitted for analysis from wells in the district.

The majority have been passed as satisfactory, and the doubtful ones have been further protected, and in most cases sufficient improvement has been shown to enable them to be used.

A builder in the Coventry district was summoned under the Public Health (Water) Act for allowing two houses to be occupied without receiving a certificate as to the water. The case was adjourned for one month to allow the work necessary to be done, and he was fined expenses and smartly reprimanded by the Bench.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

The whole of the workshops and workplaces have been kept in fair order ; 12 notices to cleanse and whiten have been given.

PETROLEUM ACT.

The licences for storage of petrol and carbide have been renewed, and several new licences for petrol have been granted.

PUBLIC DRAINAGE.

The various settling tanks at Cubbington, Barford, Whitnash, Leek Wootton, Norton Lindsey, Budbrook, and Hill Wootton have been cleansed as required, and the sewers in other parts of the district have been kept in the usual manner.

The sewer at foot of Hatton Hill, Budbrook, was badly choked, and it was necessary to open out and thoroughly cleanse the whole length.

The scavenging at Cubbington, Barford, Whitnash and Tile Hill Lane District, Stoneleigh, has been carried out as usual ; also the collection of house refuse in Broad Lane. The large number of houses now being built in this parish will soon call for a general collection of house refuse.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Plans for the erection of 115 new buildings have been approved by this Council, including extension to or alteration of existing buildings, and licences for 4 temporary buildings have been issued under Section 27 of P.H.A. Amendment, 1907.

Certificates for subsidy have been issued for 69 houses under the Housing Act, 1923.

Certificates of occupation under P.H.A. Water, 1878, have been granted for 85 houses.

The Coventry side of the district is still the usual site for building, but houses have been built at Rowington, Cubbington, Offchurch, Bubbenhall, Budbrook, and other parts of the district.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

297 houses have been inspected under this Act.

No closing order has been issued.

Of the houses examined, 273 were found to be defective, and 396 nuisances were noted.

The work in connection has been carried out in most cases, a proportion is in hand, and the remainder are carried over.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEAT REGULATIONS, 1924.

Since the above Act came into force on April 1st, the following inspections have been made:—183 Beasts, 24 Calves, 674 Sheep, 233 Pigs.

There are 4 Registered and 3 Licensed Slaughterhouses in the district. Two of these are only used for the slaughter of pigs and sheep.

In a large agricultural district as this, there are many small holders and cottagers who feed pigs, and during the season these are sold to butchers. The pigs are mostly killed in the country, and taken into the town dead, thus causing a great deal of extra work. In addition there are a large number of cases where slaughtering is resorted to in case of illness and injury to animals. In some instances the carcasses are removed to the nearest town for inspection, and when this occurs the matter has to be followed up to ascertain that inspection has actually taken place.

Your obedient Servant,

C. C. SMITH,
Sanitary Inspector

REPORT OF CANAL BOAT INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1925.

- 1.—No cases of Infectious Disease have been notified.
2. 14 Boats inspected and registered for 44 aft and 9 fore, occupied by 17 males, 10 females, 4 children all under school age.
3. No infringements.
4. None.
5. None.
6. None.
7. None.
8. Not a Registration Authority.

TABLE I.

RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT OF WARWICK.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1925.

	Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools—				
Foul Conditions ...	549	9	321	272
Structural Defects ...	376	2	198	176
Overcrowding ...	16	2	4	4
Unfit for Habitation ...	—	—	—	—
Lodging Houses ...	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops ...	22	—	—	—
Cow Sheds ...	250	—	24	24
Bakehouses ...	45	—	—	9
Slaughter Houses ...	250	—	5	5
Canal Boats ...	12	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies ...	297	—	166	142
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	120	—	89	76
Water-closets ...	15	—	9	9
House Drainage—				
Defective Traps ...	27	—	14	14
No Disconnection ...	30	—	19	16
Other Faults ...	180	—	150	139
Water Supply ...	98	3	33	26
Pigsties ...	24	—	12	10
Animals improperly kept ...	62	—	35	30
Offensive Trades ...	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ...	152	—	136	111
TOTALS ...	2,515	16	1,215	1,063

No.

Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food ....	...	...	...
Samples of Food taken for Analysis ...	...	...	...
Ditto of Food found adulterated ...	...	...	...
Ditto of Water taken for Analysis ...	...	...	98
Ditto of Water condemned as unfit for use ...	...	...	4

NOTE.—Where an inspection or notice embraced more than one defect, it may be enumerated separately as regards each defect.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed ...	...	...	55
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	...	...	55
Schools ditto ditto ditto ...	...	...	1
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease...	...	...	—
Convictions ditto ditto ditto ditto ...	...	...	—
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things ...	...	...	—
Convictions ditto ditto ditto ...	...	...	—

C. C. SMITH, Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE II.
WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1925 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1919	11,797	162	13·7	9	55	126	11·1
1920	12,123	236	19·4	14	59	135	11·5
1921	12,700	232	18·2	15	65	141	11·1
1922	12,700	192	15·1	4	21	149	11·7
1923	12,690	210	16·6	16	76	135	10·6
1924	12,740	200	15·4	6	30	149	11·7
1925	12,840	195	15·0	9	46	123	9·6

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1925.

We are indebted to the Registrar-General for the following statement showing the birth-rates and death-rates and the rate of infantile mortality in England and Wales, and in certain parts of the country during the year 1925.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1925 (Provisional Figures).

Annual Rate per 1,000 Living.

				Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births		
				Births.	Deaths.	
England and Wales	...	...	...	18.3	12.2	75
105 Great Towns, including London	...	...	...	18.8	12.2	79
157 Smaller Towns	...	...	...	18.3	11.2	74
London	...	...	...	18.0	11.7	67

TABLE III.—WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1925.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Number of Cases notified.								Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages.—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox	21				1	5	12	3		
Plague										
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	6		1	3	2				4	3
Erysipelas	4					1	3			
Scarlet Fever	28		6	16	5	1			24	
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever	2			1	1					
Pneumonia	14			2	4	4	4			6
Malaria	1					1				
Dysentery										
Puerperal Fever										
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis...										
Poliomyelitis										
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1						1			1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1								
Chicken-Pox										
Polio-Encephalitis										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	14			2	4	8				9
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3		1	1		1				3
Totals	95	1	8	25	17	21	20	3	28	22

Isolation Hospitals: Heathcote Joint Isolation Hospital (Warwick U.D.);
Joint Small-pox Hospital (Fosse, in Southam R.D.)

TABLE IV.
WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
Enteric Fever		
Smallpox		
Measles		
Scarlet Fever		
Whooping Cough		
Diphtheria	3	
Influenza	2	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1
Meningococcal Meningitis		
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases... ..	2	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	6	10
Rheumatic Fever		
Diabetes		2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	6	2
Heart Disease	5	10
Arterio Sclerosis	4	1
Bronchitis	6	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	3
Other Respiratory Diseases		
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum		
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 yrs.)... ..		
Appendicitis and Typhlitis		
Cirrhosis of Liver		1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	2
Puerperal Sepsis		
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition		2
Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, Premature Birth		5
Suicide	2	1
Other Deaths from Violence... ..	4	2
Other Defined Diseases	9	12
Causes, ill-defined or unknown		
All Causes	62	61

